

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 05291 250002Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 OMB-01 SPTA-02 /105 W
-----042144 250010Z /14

P 250001Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8108

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USINT HAVANA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 05291

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA AT THE NONALIGNED CONFERENCE

REF: PANAMA 3735

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IS INTENDED "TO FORTIFY ... PANAMA'S SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW" STATED BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, INCLUDING: THE ABSTENTION FROM THREATS OR USE OF FORCE AGAINST THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OR POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANY STATE, THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROVERSIES, AND NONINTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF STATES.

2. NO CLEAR INDICATION HAS BEEN GIVEN THAT PANAMA WILL RAISE THE ISSUE OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES AT THE CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH NOT A MEMBER OF THE NONALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NACC), AN UNOFFICIAL PANAMANIAN DELEGATION OBTAINED COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF A CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 05291 250002Z

DECLARATION CONGRATULATING PANAMA ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE TREATIES AT THE NACC MEETING IN HAVANA IN MAY. THE WORDING OF THE DECLARATION EMPHASIZED THE PRINCIPLE OF NONINTERVENTION IN PANAMA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS (REPORTED REFTEL).

3. AT A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 21, GEN. TORRIJOS

WAS ASKED ABOUT CUBA'S ROLE IN THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT.
HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE ANSWERED THAT PANAMA "WILL NOT
PERMIT CUBA'S PERMANENCE IN THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT TO BE
QUESTIONED," AND VOICED HIS SUPPORT FOR CUBA AS THE SEAT
OF THE 1979 NONALIGNED SUMMIT MEETING. HE ALSO SAID THAT,
AT THE BELGRADE MEETING, PANAMA WILL CONDEMN THE PRESENCE
OF FOREIGN TROOPS IN ALL COUNTRIES WITHOUT EXCEPTION,
SUGGESTING CONDEMNATION OF CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA.

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Message Attributes

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